GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6474
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
DEFENCE INFORMATION CELL
VAIKO

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether K. Subramanium Committee suggested setting up a Special Cell known as Defence Information Cell;

(b) if so, the sailent features of the suggestions and the reasons for its suggestions;

(c) the reaction of the Ministries on examining the suggestions;

(d) whether the suggestions have been accepted;

(e) if so, the time by when those suggestions will be implemented; and

(f) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to plug up the deficiencies occurred in the past in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): The Kargil Review Committee headed by Shri K. Subramanyam had after highlighting the inadequacy of the existing Defence Public Relations structures recommended that the Government review its information policy and develop structures and processes to keep the public informed on vital national issues.

(c) to (f): The matter has been examined at the highest levels of the Government including the Group of Ministers (GOM) set up by the Government to review the National Security in its entirety. The issue relating to re-organisation of the present Directorate of Public Relations (DPR) set up in the Ministry of Defence has also been examined by two high level Committees established by the Government. Decisions as considered appropriate to strengthen the Defence Information set up will be taken by the Government in due course after evaluating all relevant factors.